# Gems Without Measure A Pirate's Treasure

by drillmaster

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Summary: In this sequel to A Gem in the Rough, Steven has been summoned back to the Grand Line due to his status as a Straw Hat. With a bounty on his head and a song in his heart, what new adventures with Steven and the gang go on now? Steven Universe is created by Rebecca Sugar. One Piece is created by Eiichiro Oda. Additional story ideas by jmr46718.

## 1. The New Adventure

**_A GEM IN THE ROUGH_**

**Part Two:**

**_GEMS WITHOUT MEASURE; A PIRATE'S TREASURE_**

**It is a period of great worry. After stopping the Shishibukai CROCODILE in Alabasta, STEVEN UNIVERSE found himself back in his home dimension. However, he was unexpectedly joined by his newest allies: THE STRAW HAT PIRATES.**

**After several days in BEACH CITY, Steven and the Straw Hats captured the CRYSTAL GEMS' most hated enemy: PERIDOT. Though it seemed like a great victory, she informed them of a greater threat: THE CLUSTER, a Gem weapon designed to blow up the planet from inside its own core.**

**With the Straw Hat returned to their home dimension, Steven finds himself forced to rely on his friends and family to stop the Cluster from emerging and to save the planet. Little does Steven know that his quest will be diverted by a most dangerous game taking place at this very moment...**

"The first match of the Davy Back Fight has officially ended!" the voice of an announcer called out through the island. "Now it is time for the moment we all have been waiting for: the highly anticipated selection of a new crewman!"

This was the scene of the most deadly of games that can be played on the Grand Line: the Davy Back Fight. It requires two crews of pirates to accept a challenge against each other for three games of strength and wits. The stakes of the game? The crew themselves. As such, it is a horrifying game of chance that only the cocky and foolish would dare to risk...

Which is why the Straw Hat pirates inevitably found themselves on the losing end of the first challenge.

After being tricked by the devilish Foxy: the Silver Pirate, Luffy was forced to compete, putting his crew of eight on the line. The crew, not counting himself, consisted of Zoro, Nami, Usopp, Sanji, Chopper, Robin, and Genevieve, the former Miss Goldenweek. It was a dark time for the Straw Hat crew, especially since they lost the first challenge of the game: the Donut Race. Now they were forced to sit back and wait to see who would be forced to join Foxy's crew lest they be cast to a quick, underwater death.

"The captain of the winning team will choose a new member of the crew from the losing team," Foxy's announcer continued as several drummers helped build up anticipation. "Who is it gonna be boss?!"

Foxy was an interesting looking pirate. He wore a high collar jacket and ornate pants held up by suspenders. A pistol was held in the front of his pants, showing his lack of fear in any situation. His most notable features, however, were his face and hair. He had a square chin, a toothy grin, and one of the longest noses ever recorded in the world. His hair was parted into two even spikes, giving off an otherworldly appearance.

Each of the Straw Hats held their breath as they waited to see who would be taken from them. The only three that seemed unconcerned were Robin (who was stoic), Genevieve (who was too busy painting), and Zoro (who was drinking a bottle of rum to his face). At last, the dreaded pirate theatrically pointed at one of them and laughed. "The first one that I will take is..." He paused for dramatic effect and cried out triumphantly. "YOU! TONY TONY CHOPPER: THE DOCTOR!"

"What?!" Chopper asked, not fully comprehending the situation.

Two of Foxy's many crewmen grabbed the tiny talking reindeer and forced him away from Nami and straight to Foxy's arms. The pirate started to hug and squeeze him with all of his might. "Aw, ain't you just precious! You are the cuddliest pet I have ever had; yes you are!"

"Boss, please let me have him! He's so fluffy; I'm gonna die!" a blue haired woman begged her captain.

"Of course Porche!"

The sight of their doctor being forced into a black mask was nearly unbearable for the Straw Hats. "They think he's some kind of rare pet!" Nami said. "That's deplorable!"

"As long as they aren't into rare pelts we should be okay," Robin said with a straight face.

"DON'T JOKE LIKE THAT!" Usopp yelled. "CHOPPER! WE ARE SORRY WE FAILED YOU!"

The reindeer was forced to sit down next to his new captain underneath a giant tent in the shape of a fox that had a sign that said "Davy Back Fight." he began to sob nearly uncontrollably before finally cracking. "YOU GUYS! THIS...I DIDN'T WANT THIS WHEN WE SET OUT! I STARTED SAILING WITH YOU GUYS BECAUSE OF LUFFY...AND STEVEN...AND PETREA...AND..."

"Stop right there!" Foxy held his hand up and pointed at Chopper. "Steven? Petrea? Who are these people?"

"Shit," Sanji said, taking a large drag of his cigarette. "This could be a problem."

"They...they...I won't say!" Chopper gulped and turned his head away.

"As your captain I order you to tell me who this 'Steven' is!" Foxy demanded. "Will you disregard an order from your captain?!"

"YOU'RE NOT MY CAPTAIN!" Chopper shouted angrily.

"SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND STOP BEING A DISGRACE CHOPPER!" Zoro suddenly yelled out, putting down a half-finished bottle of premium rum. "You chose to come out to sea with us on your own accord, not just because of them. Don't blame others for your choices! We chose to do this contest and we lost. You are in a world where tears mean nothing!"

Zoro got up and looked Chopper directly in the eye despite the long distance away from them. "If you are a man then you will stop crying and do what your captain says! If he wants to know, tell him who they are!"

"Zoro! Stop being so harsh with him!" Nami scolded him from afar. "And I don't think him knowing about Steven is a good idea..."

At once, Chopper sucked his tears back into his face, leaving it neutral and stoic. The reindeer took a big breath and explained just who Steven was. "Steven is...Steven is the musician of the Straw Hat pirates!"

"What?!" Foxy was outraged. "You have another member of your crew...and you withheld him from us?!"

"...uh..." Luffy tried to find the right words to describe the situation. "It's complicated?"

"It's against the rules is what it is! What about this 'Petrea?!' Is she part of your crew too?"

"Not really...she and Damian are more like unofficial Straw Hats than anything..." Luffy answered slowly.

"Another person?!"

"Sir! We think we know who this Steven is!" a large ape-like person

ran over with two pieces of paper. "These came at the same time the Straw Hat's bounty came through!"

Foxy scanned the two documents and grinned eagerly. "'Tiger Millionaire' Steven Universe and 'Giant Onigiri Magician' Sardonyx, eh? Such high bounties...but no 'Petrea' or 'Damian.' Is Sardonyx one of yours too?"

The pirate captain looked to Luffy, who was whistling innocently. "I don't know what you are talking about!"

"YOU ARE STILL GIVING IT AWAY!" Nami yelled angrily.

"Pet Chopper?" Foxy began. "Spell it out for your captain!"

"Sardonyx...I don't really know!" Chopper fought back more tears and began to stammer as he spoke. "She's with Steven, but not with Steven because she's the Crystal Gems and..."

"I think that's enough!" Foxy announced. "It is clear enough to me that the Straw Hats have deliberately falsified our records of your crew!"

"But you wrote those up yourself!" Usopp protested.

"Lies! The validity of this Davy Back Fight has been compromised! Deliberately hiding a member of the crew is against the rules! As such, you are forced to present this 'Steven Universe' and any other members of your crew in a timely manner or else risk disqualification!" Foxy roared in Luffy's direction. "Fuehfehfeh! Of course, disqualification means instant victory for the opposing crew!"

"What?! So we will lose everyone in the crew if we can't bring Steven here?!" Luffy asked worriedly. "But he's not here right now! He's not anywhere near here!"

"Then do you renounce him as a member of your crew on the honor of your Jolly Roger?!" Foxy asked.

"Never!"

"Then you have one hour to present him lest you abandon your dreams and join my crew," Foxy sneered evilly. "What do you have to say to that Straw Hat?"

Luffy looked from the emotional form of Chopper to each of the members of his crew. Their eyes revealed what he knew: there was no choice in the matter. This was a time of great need if they were to have any chance of continuing on their quest on the Grand Line. "Fine...I'll get him. Usopp, you're with me."

"Are...are we sure there isn't another way? We are tampering with dimensional rifts and..." Usopp gulped nervously.

"Steven wouldn't want us to abandon our dreams for his sake," Luffy bit his lip. "If we are to keep our honor as pirates, we need to get Steven."

"What if he doesn't want to come?" Usopp asked.

"He'll want to come. I know it," Luffy grinned. "Crew, wait here! We'll be right back!"

Luffy and Usopp ran quickly to their ship: the Going Merry. It was far more beat up than the last time Steven was aboard it, but it still had a little fight left in her. They rushed to the storage deck where they found a small salmon pink badge with a star on it. Usopp examined the badge and motioned for Luffy to press the star.

"I can't believe we are finally going to use the Steven Badge," Luffy cracked his knuckles in anticipation. "I am so pumped!"

"I'll be pumped when this game is over," Usopp sighed. "Still, it is going to be nice to see everyone again. You ready captain?"

"I was born ready Usopp! WE ARE COMING STEVEN!"

With that, he pressed the button and the two members of the Straw Hat pirates vanished, leaving the Grand Line to embark on a most important task.

*GWMAPT*

Petrea was having the time of her life.

Mr. Smiley had rented out a small building in Beach City Funland for her to start her own little chocolate shop: Miss Valentine's Chocolates. Before she had left to join up with the Straw Hats, Genevieve had given her $1,000 that she had made painting portraits on the pier with her newfound friend Vidalia. As the painter had returned to the Grand Line, the money was worthless to her but ended up being the foundation of Petrea's entire business. The chocolatier was indebted to that generosity, as it allowed her to buy the necessary ingredients to get her shop started.

Her living situation, however, had not been as prosperous. Though she was making money, it was not enough to afford her own apartment, let alone a house. The same could be said for Damian, the former Mr. 5. Though Delmarvan firemen were afforded a somewhat decent salary, he was technically doing the work under the table for now until Mayor Dewey could clear everything up. For now, Mayor Dewey was personally handling his payments.

Damian had been meeting with Dewey regularly to discuss what a full-fledged fireman would require. He was utterly fascinated to learn about a magical tool known as a "firetruck." In the meantime, Damian was working in the construction field, mainly assisting the Fryman family in rebuilding their business. It was almost finished, but still required some patchwork.

Thankfully, the two of them had found refuge in Steven's beach house. On their first night as official Beach City citizens, Steven had the brilliant idea to release the Gem known as Peridot from her bubble. The appearance of a being that Petrea helped bring down had scared the living daylights out of her, especially since she was in a deep sleep at the time. After locking herself in the bathroom all night, Steven managed to convince the Gem to come out and, after a trip to the Kindergarten, explain just what something called "The Cluster"

was.

Apparently, this planet was home to some kind of Gem geo-weapon that was incubating in the planet's core. If it was not stopped, the planet would be destroyed. As such, it fell to Steven, the Gems, and (surprisingly) Peridot to figure out how to drill to the core and remove it to save the planet. The five of them had left for a barn that Greg Universe's family owned, leaving Damian and Petrea in charge of the beach house. This gave them a chance to build up their finances while having the benefit of keeping everything tidy while they were away.

But in the shop? That was a different story. Petrea had a very important job she was finishing today; something that meant a lot to her.

"_Miss Valentine makes everything she bakes satisfying and delicious! Talk about your childhood wishes! You can even eat the dishes!_" she sang to herself as she put the finishing touches on a very important commissioned cake. It was requested to look like a cat called "Cookie Cat."

"You never should have watched that movie," a familiar voice called from behind her. "You've been singing that song for days now."

Petrea stopped what she was doing to embrace her oldest friend. There Damian stood, a bit sweaty but in good spirits. "I have not! I only sing when I work! It's the allure of Beach City...every day you wake up with a song in your heart and a spring in your step!"

"...right..." Damian rolled his eyes behind his sunglasses.

"Kyahahaha! You're just still mad because I laughed at how afraid of those Oompa Loompas you got," Petrea teased.

"...they freaked me out..." Damian shuddered. "So, what time are we being picked up? I left the site early so I could clean myself up before we left."

The chocolatier gave him the once over and nodded. "Wise choice."

"Says the girl with chocolate in her hair."

Petrea bent down to look at her reflection in a mixing bowl and frowned. "Every time."

"It suits you 'Miss Valentine,'" Damian teased. "It goes well with the apron."

"If you have a clean apron then you aren't doing it right!" Petrea looked offended. "And to answer your question, Connie is being dropped off at noon so Greg should be around fifteen minutes before that to make the Maheswarans happy."

"That's in an hour and a half!" Damian said frantically. "How am I supposed to clean myself up in that time?!"

"Figure it out for yourself, pretty boy. I get first dibs on the shower when I get back. Hand me those two candles, will you?" Petrea asked, pointing to a blue candle in the shape of a "four" and a red candle shaped like a "one."

"I still can't believe this is actually the kid's age," Damian shook his head in disbelief. "Why are these two separate colors?"

"Garnet was very insistent on the candle colors for some reason when she commissioned the cake," Petrea shrugged. "Far be it from me to question an alien rock lady."

"Fair enough," Damian agreed. "What did you get him?"

"Besides the cake?" Petrea asked, boxing up the finished product and sealing it shut. "A G.U.Y. collecting guide. Harold told me that Steven loves those things and said that this would be right up his alley. It's hard to shop for a kid you have only known for two months in a world you have only lived in for one."

"Tell me about it. I just got him cash," Damian said, pulling out a card.

"Damian! How rude are you?!"

The bomb man threw his hands up defensively. "What?! This was a week's worth of pay! I'd rather him get something he wanted!"

"He is the kind of kid who would rather value a gift you personally picked out for him," Petrea shook her head. "It's like you don't even know him."

"Again, we've known him for two months...one of which he has been holed up in some farm!"

"What does that even mean?"

"It means...damn it; I miss him okay? There, I said it!" Damian sighed and went to sit in a chair, which Petrea took from underneath him.

"As cute as that is, there is no point in sitting when we are running behind. Grab the cake while I close up shop." The blonde suddenly got into his face and gave him a serious look. "If you drop this cake, I will drop you. Are we clear?"

"Crystal," Damian gulped.

*GWMAPT *

The speakers in Greg Universe's van were blaring as he prepared himself to get to the beach house as fast as he could. He had just closed up It's A Wash for the weekend, waving goodbye to his old friend Yellowtail. This was a time that meant a lot to the man; for it was not every day that one's child turned fourteen years old. It was up to him to drive Petrea, Damian, and Connie Maheswaran to his old family barn where the Gems and Steven were held up. Connie was Steven's closest friend and was a young girl who Greg admired very much. He respected how she treated him and especially how she made

Steven feel.

It made an old man proud. Of course, this old man was now running late and he knew it.

"Gah! I know I put my good shirt around here somewhere..." Greg told himself as he ruffled through a large pile of clothing bunched up in the back of the van.

Despite making a decent living with his business and even some residuals from the few songs of his that actually sold, Greg had settled on a life that involved living out of a van that was parked next to the house he helped build for his son. Most of the money he made went to Steven and Greg was happy with that. Lately, however, Greg had been toying with a way to gain a little bit of extra income doing what he loved the most: making music. It involved just that: the ability to make music.

You see, Greg had recently eaten an otherworldly object known as a Devil Fruit. With only one bite, the eater would gain a brand new ability or power set with the trade-off of losing the ability to swim. After a series of convoluted events involving a local boy named Onion, a reality warping man with a talking fanny pack, and his son's pirate crew; Greg was given the power of the Rhythm Rhythm Fruit. This allowed him to generate and control all forms of sound, music, and even rhythm itself. For a musician like Greg, it was a dream come true and he was having a blast figuring out his new abilities. It was like playing with a new toy, only on a grander scale. In his case, he was working on remastering and reworking several of his old songs to shop them around to anyone who would listen.

But today was not about his music; it was about his son.

"Oh well...the white polo it is! Schtoo-ball is just gonna be happy to spend time with his groovy old man," Greg chuckled to himself as he stuffed his balding head out of the aforementioned white polo. "There! Perfect! Now all I have to do is hope that Bonnie and Clyde have their act together for when Priyanka drops off Connie in...oh my goodness! I'm not gonna make it!"

With that, Greg grabbed the _Dog Copter IV_ movie that he bought Steven and got the van started. He prayed that Petrea and Damian were not running as late as he was. He liked the two well enough and had tried his best to help them get acclimated to their new home. It struck him a bit strange that two former killers who were ten years older than Steven gave up their old lives to live in Beach City with their friend, but who was Greg to judge when he did the same thing...especially when the difference in age was in the thousands. To be fair, he did it for love and they did it to follow their dreams, but technically they were the same thing on some level.

After a short drive, Greg found himself in front of the beach house. Thankfully, he did not see any sign of Connie or her parents. He got out of the van and ran up the steps, praying that this would all work out smoothly. Connie's parents were a bit strict and it took a lot of convincing to get their permission to let her sleep over for the weekend. This meant a lot to both of them and he wanted to see everything go perfectly.

"Hey you two! Hope you are ready to go because the van is gassed up and ready to...GAH!" Greg opened up the door to announce his presence and was greeted with a most random sight: the pirates Monkey D. Luffy and Usopp conversing with an equally surprised and shocked Petrea and Damian. "What the heck?! How...why...I...what?!"

"Oh hey Mr. Universe!" Luffy waved excitedly. "Is your son home?"

"Luffy?! I...what are you doing here?!" Greg asked anxiously. "Did you two know about this?!"

"Not at all!" Petrea shook her head and waved her arms defensively. She had dressed up in an orange dress with yellow frills while, surprisingly, keeping her hair hidden in her work bandana. "They just warped here mere moments ago! I didn't even have time to do my hair yet!"

"...I'm sensing a feeling of being unwanted here..." Usopp pointed out. "Did...did we interrupt something?"

"And where's Steven?" Luffy looked around the house. "I don't see him anywhere!"

Greg ran his hands over his head and began to pace. Though Priyanka did not have any ill-will toward the pirates, she did have a problem with Connie getting involved in unnecessary fights. If two members of the Straw Hat crew were in the beach house, something serious must have happened. He gulped and took a seat next to Damian, who had a pink button up shirt on with a black bow tie. "I...you guys just have to excuse me. Trust me; I love you guys and I'm thrilled to see you...but Priyanka is about to drop Connie off to spend the weekend and I really don't want her to say that she can't go and..."

"Go where?" Luffy asked curiously. "Where are you guys going...and why are you in a silly shirt Damian?"

"Don't. Mock. The. Shirt!" Damian growled. "This shirt was expensive, damn it!"

"It's still silly!" Luffy laughed.

"...I'm beginning to remember why I initially set out to kill you..." Damian twitched his eyebrow.

Petrea hit him in the arm and gave him a dirty look. "There will be none of that! This is a very special day and we will keep it special no matter what!"

"Why is it special? What's going on?!" Luffy was practically begging now.

"It's Steven's birthday Luffy," Greg explained. "We are heading out to the family barn and throwing him a party..."

"IT'S HIS BIRTHDAY?! YOU GUYS ARE THROWING HIM A BIRTHDAY PARTY?!" Luffy started to jump up and down like an excited child. "THAT IS GREAT!"

"Stay focused Luffy!" Usopp scolded him. "Birthday parties are great

but we really need Steven's help!"

"...I feel like I'm going to regret asking this...but with what?" Greg asked, praying that it wouldn't be too life-threatening that he could put a positive spin on it if he had to explain it to Priyanka.

"We got challenged to a Davy Back Fight and..." Usopp began before getting cut off.

"And you ACCEPTED?!" Petrea yelled. "Are you kidding me?!"

"Do you have any idea how stupid you have to be to...?" Damian started to join in before stopping himself. "Never mind. How bad is it?"

"We just lost Chopper in the first round and..."

"YOU LOST CHOPPER?!"

Luffy and Usopp began to speak again but were stopped when the sound of a cymbal crashing filled the room. Greg, who had no idea what was going on, had clapped his hands to get their attention. "In case you forgot, I'm not from the Grand Line or wherever you guys came from! Stop leaving me in the dark! What the heck is a Davy Back Fight and how does this connect to Steven?"

"A Davy Back Fight is essentially a game of physical challenges where instead of betting money or points, you bet the members of your crew...and it seems our lovable idiot captain has found himself engaged in one," Petrea elaborated.

"Oh...okay. That's not as bad as I thought..." Greg took it all in.

"Yeah...but we may have accidentally revealed that Steven is an official Straw Hat pirate and he may be forced to compete lest we become members of Foxy's crew..." Usopp gulped, not really wanting to let Greg know how desperate of a situation they were really in.

"...what?!" Greg asked. "Are you telling me that Steven is the only thing standing in between you and losing the crew?"

"...yeah. Pretty much. So can Steven come out to play?" Luffy smiled innocently.

"This...this...I..." Greg stammered uneasily. "This is heavy!"

"To be fair, I think Steven would get a kick out of it..." Damian pointed out. "It would be a pretty awesome birthday surprise."

"But what about my cake?!" Petrea whined. "It'll be ruined! I...IF YOU EVEN THINK OF TOUCHING THAT CAKE, I WILL BURY YOU!"

Luffy had finally noticed the cake and had started to make his way towards the box, eager to sink his teeth into it. He jumped away the second Petrea yelled at him, not wishing to incur her wrath. "Scary chocolate lady!"

"Well we aren't doing anything until we ask Steven. If Steven wants to participate then who am I to deny the birthday boy?" Greg sighed. "Man, I know the Gems were working really hard on this. They'll be crushed..."

"They'll be crushed? What about me?! All my hard Cookie Cat work was for nothing!" Petrea continued to wail.

"...we could just bring the cake with us..." Usopp offered.

"Still, what do we tell Priyanka and Connie?! There is no way that..." Greg began before a knock on the door made him jump. "GAH! THEY ARE HERE!"

"You guys need to hide!" Damian shouted. "You do not want to piss that lady off!"

"OH NO!" Luffy panicked.

"...you guys are idiots. Don't you remember the one thing that Connie's mom values is honesty?" Petrea shook her head. "If you hide and lie to her, bad things will happen."

The men all opened their mouths to comment before conceding that the chocolatier was correct. The Maheswarans valued two things above all else: safety and honesty. This was turning far more complicated that Greg was expecting but he should have expected that with these pirates. He could never keep up with them, but he had a great time trying. He just didn't want to disappoint his son; be it being unable to see Connie or reuniting with his pirate friends. He knew there was a lot of stressful things going on in his life and he wanted to make sure that he at least had one perfect day.

"She's right. It's time to buck up and face it like a man," Greg gulped. "Wish me luck fellows."

"Godspeed," they all saluted at once, causing Petrea to roll her eyes.

The elder Universe opened the door to the sight of Connie and her mother. Connie was wearing an adorable red dress and holding a wrapped present for Steven. Her mother, however, was just wearing her doctor's coat and was holding what appeared to be a defibrillator. Greg looked down at the device and discovered he lost the ability to form coherent words. "I...uh...that..."

"Hello to you too Greg. I see you've found the defibrillator," Priyanka smiled. "It is just a precaution but one can never be sure when you are out in the wilderness."

"Uh...if you say so?" Greg returned it with a weak smile of his own. "Um...you look nice Connie."

"Thank you Mr. Universe! Is...is everything okay? You seem like you are going to have a panic attack," Connie asked, clearly concerned for her best friend's father.

"Um...well you see..." Greg finally took a deep breath and opened the door. "See for yourself."

The Maheswarans looked inside, confused at first, until their eyes landed on Luffy and Usopp. Priyanka jumped back in shock and Connie ran over excitedly. "Captain Luffy! Usopp! What are you guys doing here?!"

"Hey Connie! Hey Connie's mom!" Luffy waved as he found himself caught in a hug. "We need Steven's help in a game to save our crew! You should totally come too!"

"Are you looking for someone to share in a great adventure, Luffy the Gray?" Connie chuckled.

"Luffy the what?" Luffy asked confused.

"It's nothing..." Connie waved it off. "So what kind of a game are you guys involved in? What..."

"Connie!" Priyanka said sternly. "Let your mother do the talking!"

The Maheswaran matriarch made her way to Luffy and eyed him up. She glanced over to Usopp, who backed away nervously. The other two, Petrea and Damian, looked somewhat frazzled but it was clear that they were waiting to see what would happen next. "While it is good to see you all again, I must admit it is setting off several red flags. What exactly is going on here? You are taking Steven back to that Grand Line place for a game, you say? Does Steven know about this? Did YOU know about this Greg?"

"Nope! This just kind of happened by itself a couple of hours ago!" Luffy explained. "We have an hour to bring Steven back or else we have to join that split head's crew!"

"...I'm going to pretend that I know what you are talking about. Are you telling me that instead of a weekend at a barn, you want Steven and my daughter to be in your world playing some weird party game?" Priyanka pried.

"...yes?" Luffy shrugged.

"And is it dangerous?"

"Well there is a combat match, but that's just me and split head. The other matches are just games I think...I'm not gonna lie I don't know," Luffy admitted. "But I don't want to lose my crew or forswear Steven! I'd rather die!"

"As admirable as that might be, you just asked my daughter to join you in another dimension where I will not be able to come to her aid," Priyanka looked to Connie and then to Luffy. "You do realize that, don't you?"

"Why don't you come too? Didn't you want to watch her sword train or something?"

"In a controlled environment young man! This is completely different!" Priyanka tapped her foot as she had an internal struggle within herself. "I...I can't believe I'm about to say this but...is there any way that Connie could just WATCH instead of participating in the game if it was even the slightest bit dangerous?"

"What?" Greg, Damian, and Usopp said at once in disbelief.

"Get out," Petrea blinked in surprise.

"Mom...are you serious?!" Connie's jaw dropped. "You would actually consider letting me go with them?!"

"Only if Steven's guardians were there as well!" Priyanka rubbed her temples in anguish. "I...I don't know how comfortable I feel with this, but I promised to trust you more and I promised you time with Steven for his birthday. I can't renege now after that."

"Why don't you just come too?" Luffy asked innocently. "I can make sure that they know you two aren't part of my crew!"

"Unfortunately I work this weekend...and Doug is out at a conference and can't be reached..." Priyanka sighed. "This is hard for me, but I want to be a good mother and a good mother means letting go from time to time. I'm putting a lot of trust in you Connie. Promise me that you will take care of yourself!"

"Ye...yes mom! Of course!" Connie started to tear up. "I'm going on an adventure!"

"ALRIGHT!" Luffy cheered. "WE'VE GOT CONNIE! WE'VE GOT CO..."

"However, there is one other condition young lady!" Priyanka added sharply. The people in the house held their collective breaths, curious to hear the doctor's stipulation.

"What is it?" Connie gulped.

"You will bring the defibrillator, oxygen inhalator, extrication collar, cervical collar, valve face shield, disposable resuscitator, tri-panel knee immobilizer, arm slings, and the spare medical bag with you! I may not be there, but I am sure that the nice reindeer can figure out the advanced technology without a problem," Priyanka told her flatly. "Are there any objections?"

"Not at all mom!"

The woman shifted her gaze to the others, who quickly agreed. The only one who didn't was Luffy, but that was mainly because he had no idea what any of that stuff was. "Uh...is that all doctor stuff?"

The elder Maheswaran took a deep breath and nodded. "Yes. Yes it is. Your doctor will know just what to do with most of the equipment."

"Then let's get Steven here so we can win Chopper back!" Luffy grinned like crazy while Priyanka failed to catch the comment about Chopper. "So where is this barn?"

"About a half hour drive out," Greg scratched his head. "I don't know if that's enough time to get Steven and come back..."

"Isn't Lion with them? Couldn't he teleport them here or something?"

Petrea suggested.

"Not a bad idea," Greg nodded and frowned. "You know we still haven't even asked the birthday boy what he wants to do yet, right?"

"Steven doesn't know about this yet?" Connie asked.

"Not at all. Nobody does over there. We aren't going unless he gives the wordâ€¦" Greg sighed. "I guess there's only one thing to do."

The musician ruffled through his pockets and pulled out his cell phone. He pressed a few numbers and put the phone to his ear. After waiting a minute, Greg began to speak. "Hey birthday boy...yes Connie is here...um...sport, I've got a weird question for you...how set are you on having your party at the barn?"

## 2. The Family Barn

Today was the day that Steven had been waiting for all month: his birthday.

Upon releasing Peridot from her prison, Steven and the Gems almost immediately found themselves put to work in the old family barn. It was up to them to save the day again, but this time they had the added bonus of Peridot. The half-Gem was doing everything he could to make her feel welcomed, but there were times where she seemed to be more frustrated and confused than happy. However, Steven knew that he would get to her in no time. Sooner or later, she would realize how great the planet Earth was and how much fun is was to be a member of the Crystal Gems with Garnet, Amethyst, and Pearl.

And Steven!

Today, though, was a day that Peridot decided to sit out for and with a good reason. She was taking care of working on the drill while the Gems focused on the party. The Gems continued to insist that it was fine to take a day off from building the drill to celebrate Steven's birthday not only to inject some much needed levity in their lives, but because Peridot could keep them on schedule if she worked alone. Steven wished that she would at least join in for a bit of the fun, but he wouldn't pester her if she said no.

The party was something Steven was looking forward to immensely. At first he was mainly excited to see Garnet unfuse into Ruby and Sapphire like she was planning on, but that got changed to her telling him about how she first became a fusion since he already met them twice so far. While Steven was happy with the story, it reminded him that he was not alone out there and he never would be. Being out in the farm did not allow for much opportunity to see his friends. He missed his dad's music, Petrea's chocolates, Damian's occasional puns, and Connie's...well presence. Of all the people he missed, it was Connie he missed most of all. He kept thinking about what Genevieve told him back in Alabasta; how it was okay to like people and to hold onto his feelings for her. He knew that Connie liked him, but did she like him as much as he liked her? To be truthful, Steven couldn't even begin to comprehend how much he liked Connie, but he knew that she was his best friend no matter what.

Who knows; maybe they would even be like Sadie and Lars in a few years.

The Gems were setting up various banners and balloons around the barn to give off a festive feel. He knew the finishing touches would be brought about when his dad arrived with his birthday cape and crown, but there was still plenty to be done until then. He spied Lion, his pet pink Lion, messing around with a balloon's string so Steven went over and tried to get him to stop.

"Lion! Don't eat the string! The balloon could fly away and it would never get to see this great party! We can't deprive it of such a glorious sight, now can we?" Steven asked.

Lion merely started at him and gave no recognition that he could understand what Steven was saying. Confident that his words sunk in, Steven went back to throwing streamers around. As he did so, Lion went right back to playing with string.

"Hey birthday boy! We got a few places over here that could use some flair!" Amethyst called to Steven, pointing to the side of the barn.

"How could I be so blind?!" Steven ran over and decorated to his heart's content.

"Looking good Steven," Garnet flashed a thumbs up. "I'm going to grab some birthday hats. Do you want one?"

"No thanks Garnet! I've got to keep my hair pristine for the traditional crown!"

"Ah. I should have known. Pearl? Amethyst?" Garnet called to her companions.

"Sign me up for one G-Squad!" Amethyst responded.

"None for me, thank you!" Pearl shook her head and continued to tie decorative bows. "Ugh, this section is slightly off...I need to do it again!"

"Yo Peri the Platypus, you sure you don't want in on this?" Amethyst asked the small green Gem, who was returning to the barn for extra supplies.

"...I'll pass," she dismissed her.

"Aw come on! You should at least put on one of Garnet's cool birthday hats!"

"...if I wanted to wear a paper-based appearance modifier, I would already be doing so. If you'll excuse me, I have a drill to finish," Peridot grumbled to herself as she returned back to work.

"...lame," Amethyst rolled her eyes. "Say, when's Greg gonna get here with that cake?! I'm famished!"

"Cake?" Steven asked.

"Amethyst! Don't ruin the surprise!" Garnet snapped a paper hat on

the purple Gem's head.

"Ow! That smarts!" Amethyst rubbed her hand on her head.

"I'm getting a birthday cake?" Steven started to get even more excited.

"Steven, isn't that a traditional part of the birthday celebration?" Pearl inquired as she wrapped her bow again.

"It is, but I don't expect anything from you guys...except your love!" Steven blushed.

"You don't have to wait for your birthday for that Steven," Garnet made her hands into a heart.

"Oh you!"

At that moment, Steven's pocket began to vibrate. He pulled out his cellphone and saw a picture of his father and him making silly faces together. "Hey! My dad is calling!"

"Cool. Greggy is probably on his way...WITH FOOD!" Amethyst licked her lips.

"That means that he is with Connie!" Steven said excitedly. He picked up the phone and answered it. "Hey daddy-o!"

"_Hey birthday boy_," Greg replied on the other end.

"Are you on your way? Is Connie with you?!"

"_Yes Connie is here...um...sport, I've got a weird question for you_..." Greg asked in a weird voice. It was readily apparent to Steven that something was up, but perhaps it factored into his surprise cake.

"I've got a weird answer for you!"

"..._how set are you on having your party at the barn_?"

The question caught Steven off guard. "...what?"

"_Yeah, I know. Just...do you really care WHERE your birthday is as long as everybody is there to celebrate it with you?_" Greg tiptoed around what he was trying to ask, much to Steven's confusion and concern.

"Dad, you're scaring me. What's going on? Is everything okay?"

_"I...that is to say...Steven, I think you need to know that something unexpected happened...and I need your opinion on it_," the man sighed on the other end of the phone. "_Um_..."

"Steven, is everything alright?" Pearl looked up and saw Steven's worried gaze. "Did Greg get a flat tire or something like that?"

"I don't know! I think something happened and..." Steven started before Pearl motioned for him to give her the phone.

"Greg, it's Pearl. What is the matter?" she asked into the phone.

Steven tried his best to listen in as Pearl nodded her head to whatever his father was saying. He knew that something was going on and it bothered him greatly. Had something happened to Connie? Were they in trouble? Did...did she not want to come to see him?

"You have WHO at the house and they want to go WHERE?!" Pearl freaked out, causing Steven to jump. "How...what does that even mean?!"

"What crawled up Pearl's backside?" Amethyst asked, mildly amused.

"I don't know..." Steven frowned. "I guess somebody is at the beach house..."

"OUT OF THE QUESTION! We are NOT leaving this party to go play some silly pirate game in another dimension!"

The second Pearl said the word "pirate," Steven dropped the streamers he was holding.

"Pirate? Dimension?! Ahhhh!" Steven started to smile uncontrollably as his eyes widened into stars. "Is it true?!"

Amethyst looked from Pearl to Steven and made the connection rather fast. "Woah! Those guys are back?! Are they coming to the party?"

"They knew it was my birthday?!" Steven started to clap. "Was that the surprise Garnet?"

The tall Gem was quiet as she took in the bits of the conversation she could make out. The idea that the Straw Hat pirates were once again interacting with this world made her curious and worried at the same time. The stipulation for bridging their two worlds was that it would only be done in times of great need, so what could be so important that they would call upon them again so soon? "It is a surprise alright," she managed to get out.

"Pearl, may I please have my phone back?!" Steven went to retrieve his device but Pearl continued to talk into it.

"Tell Luffy that he can play with Steven when we aren't trying to save the world or throw a birthday party. Today is not a good..."

"PEARL!" Steven yelled, causing the Gem to jump. "May I PLEASE have my phone back?!"

The Gem opened up her mouth to protest, but looked over to Garnet. The fusion pointed to a balloon that read "Happy Birthday" and shrugged. Pearl, realizing that she had no choice, returned the phone to Steven.

"Thank you!" Steven gave her a smile before taking a big breath. "Dad...is it true? Is Luffy there with you?"

"..._yeah...yeah he is_," Greg responded.

"_Is that Steven_?!" a most familiar voice called from the background. "_Steven! Happy birthday dude_!"

"LUFFY!" Steven loudly exclaimed. His eyes began to water up as he took in the sound of his captain's voice. "Leaping lizards, it IS you! I...did you know it was my birthday?"

"_Let me put you on speakerphone Schtoo-ball. I think this will be easier if he explains it_..." Greg mumbled into the phone. "_Okay! If you two talk, he'll be able to hear you_!"

"_HEY, STEVEN! IT'S ME: LUFFY_!" Luffy's voice blared loudly into Steven's ear, forcing him to remove it temporarily. "_CAN YOU HEAR ME_?"

"_You don't have to yell into the thin_g!" the voice of Damian growled at the other side, making Steven even happier.

"I can hear you guys! I can't believe it! This is the best birthday surprise ever! Is everybody there?" Steven asked enthusiastically.

"_Just me Steven_!" Usopp chimed in. "_Listen, we need your help! Are you a brave enough pirate to save Chopper from a split haired pirate named Foxy_?"

"Am I?!" Steven responded. "What do you need me to do Usopp?!"

"_We need you to help us win a few rounds of a game called the Davy Back Fight. If we win the next round, we can get Chopper back! The only problem is that we need all of our crew there and, technically, you are still part of our crew!_" Usopp continued to elaborate.

"...that sounds AMAZING!" Steven grinned ear to ear. "But what about dad or Connie or the Gems or..."

"_I'm here Steven_!" Connie's voice filled Steven's ears, causing him to blush. "_Petrea and Damian too! We all will join you if this is what you want to do_!"

"Really?! But what about your mom? I thought that it took a lot to even get you to come to the barn for the weekend?"

_"I am fine with it Steve_n," the voice of Priyanka joined in. _"However, only on the condition that the Gems come along too and Connie brings a few necessary pieces of safety equipment_."

"Dr. Maheswaran?! Really?!"

"_Really. And happy birthday Steven. I hope it is a memorable one...and a safe one_..." There was a deep pause and an audible sigh. "_Take care of her, okay_?"

"Always Dr. Maheswaran," Steven pledged.

_"Steven, this is very important_!" Usopp yelled, ruining what could

have been a tender moment over the phone. "_We need to get back to the Grand Line in...really?! A half hour?! Steven, get Lion to transport you and the Gems back to your beach house so we can get to the arena_!"

"What?! That fast?! Okay; no problem. I'll be there faster than you can say 'Bungacowa!'" Steven nodded to himself. "Love you guys!"

He returned his phone to his pocket and looked at the Gems. They appeared to be hanging onto his every word, trying to make out what was going on. Finally, Steven got the courage to speak. "Guys, I really, really, REALLY love and appreciate how the barn looks and what you are doing for my birthday...but...but..."

"We understand Steven," Garnet put her hand on Steven's shoulder. "A pirate's life is a wonderful life, but an ever-busy one. We won't be hurt if we do this...but you WILL get a proper birthday party from those pirates before we leave or else they will deal with me."

The half-Gem started to tear up again and ran to hug Garnet, thanking her and the others profusely as he did so. Finally, he ran into the barn incredibly fast. "I'm gonna grab my Cheeseburger Backpack and a change of clothes! This is gonna be the best birthday ever!" He looked around and spied Lion continuing to play with the balloon. "Lion, I'll let you keep the balloon if you please take us back to the beach house in a few minutes!"

As Steven was rummaging around in the barn, the Gems exchanged glances as they took in exactly what they were about to do and where they were about to go. "So this is like a pirate game or something?" Amethyst started to laugh. "Those guys are always a riot! Who thinks of this stuff?"

"Thisâ€¦we aren't seriously considering doing this, are we?" Pearl scoffed. "This is so inconvenient and out of the way! It is one thing to allow a day of celebration for Steven, but who knows what will happen over there? We could run the risk of becoming seriously behind schedule in the construction of the drill!"

"True as that may be, it is Steven's birthday. If he wants to join the Straw Hats in some kind of pirate game, then who are we to stop him? Besides, there are two ways we can look at this," Garnet pointed out.

"And, pray tell, what would that be?"

Garnet held up a single finger. "Number one: this serves as a birthday that Steven will never forget and lets our boy see his friends again, keeping him in good spirits." She then put up a second finger. "Number two: the Grand Line has far different technology than even we have in this word. If we are already there, what isn't to say that we could appropriate some material to better complete a more efficient drill?"

"There is merit to thatâ€¦" Pearl conceded. "But we have no set guarantee of what materials we could find."

"There's only one way to find out though Pearl!" Amethyst joined in. "You know that it's what Steven wants and you know that, in the end, we are just going to end up going through with anyway, right?"

The Gem opened her mouth to protest before shutting it and turning bright blue. "â€¦I hate it when you are right. I'd at least like to PRETEND that I have a say in this matterâ€¦"

"Duly noted," Garnet nodded. "There is still one final thing we need to discussâ€¦"

*GWMAPT*

Today was a day Peridot was looking forward to for some time: Steven's birthday party. For the others, this was a chance to parade around like fools wearing odd appearance modifiers and partaking in all manner of things humans perceive to be "fun." While Peridot conceded that there were a lot of beautiful and remarkable things living on Earth, she failed to see how such amusements were considered enjoyable. Parading around like pebbles was not something she found entertainment inâ€¦

Building the drill in peace was.

She was free for a full day away from the Crystal Clodâ€¦Gems. It was true that she did not despise them nearly as much as she had when this true began, she found their antics to be rather stressful and weary. Her facet type was not meant to endure such levels of enthusiasm and insanity. It was hard enough to comprehend the fusion Garnet, who she initially perceived to be nothing more than an offensive abomination. However, the past few Earth weeks had shown her just how pleasant a Gem Garnet could beâ€¦in small doses. The same could be said for the Amethyst, though her peculiar behavior often made little to no sense to a Gem such as herself.

The Pearlâ€¦well, she was trying to be nice. It was appreciated.

Steven was a completely different type of Gem, and Peridot did not mean that solely due to his organic half. He did everything he could to explain this planet and its customs to her and she was beginning to see just why the Crystal Gems would want to stay here. The ecosystem was rich and full of all kinds of life. Everything was just soâ€¦unique. For a Gem who came from a set caste system, it was a lot to take in. But taking it in was something that Peridot relished and she hoped that, one day, she would have a fuller understanding of every aspect of this planet.

But in order to do that, she needed to terminate the Cluster by any means necessary.

Igniting her torch, Peridot continued to weld together pieces of scrap metal to complete the skeletal frame of the device. It was imperative that the drill could hold itself together as it made its way through the planet core. Peridot could not be sure the exact specifications of the interior of the planet, but she knew that the endurance level of the drill needed to be as high as possible if they were going to have a chance at beating it.

She had to admit that it pained her to go against the express desires of her Diamond, but there was no choice in the matter. There was no way to contact Homeworld and there was no way for Yellow Diamond to interfere directly with her work. A being as high and mighty as her

would never sully herself with such a task. However, Peridot knew that she would understand exactly WHY she would need to terminate the Cluster, especially given her profound objectivity. A being with clarity such as hers would probably praise Peridot for correcting such a serious oversight like this and would see why the Earth had so much untapped potential.

This inevitable praise is what kept Peridot going. Nothing was going to stop her now!

"Peridot!" the fusion called to her. Peridot put down the torch and regarded her. She was not alone, as she brought the other two Gems with her.

"Oh. It's you Garnet. I told you before, I have no desire to wear one of your silly paper things while I work. It is detrimental to my productivityâ€¦"

"Yeahâ€¦about thatâ€¦want to take a break?" Amethyst asked and smiled. "We'd really like you to take a break."

"â€¦no thank you. Any further distractions would get us off of our projected timeframe. I already wished Steven a 'happy birthday' so I could keep focused here. Now shoo!" Peridot motioned for them to leave. "Why don't you hang up some of those decorative pieces of paper on the wall? I am sure Steven would like that very much."

"Peridot, there has been a change of plans. We are going out for Steven's party," Garnet folded her arms.

"Oh. Is that all? Don't worry about the drill. It is in good hands. I hope you enjoy ingesting that disgusting substance the human with the shifting weight is no doubt making for you. I trust you will return by nightfall?"

"â€¦I don't think you get it Periwinkle. We want you to come too!" Amethyst explained. "It's gonna be a blast!"

Peridot stood there and started to laugh. "You want meâ€¦.to come with you! Ha! That is rich! And why would I ever do that?"

"Because you have no choice," Garnet picked her up, causing the tiny Gem to shift and struggle in her arms. "You are on a mandatory vacation. Time to clock out."

"Unhand me you permafusion! I refuse to take part in any trip or do anything to a device that tells the passage of time!" Peridot wailed with great effort. "I swear to you that there is no way that I will EVER leave this barn until the drill is complete!"

*GWMAPT*

"Are you ready to go Steven?" Garnet asked the boy, who was happily carrying his ukulele and had his backpack strapped over his shoulder.

"I was born ready Garnet! I...Peridot?! You're coming too?!" Steven put his had over his mouth in shock. "This really IS the best birthday ever!"

Peridot was tapping her foot and frowning like a child. "...under protest. I am being forced into joining you all on whatever excursion you will be partaking in for your yearly celebration of your creation."

"You made a rhyme!" Steven clapped his hands. "I love it! You know what that means?"

"...no. Please don't. Not another one," Peridot winced, knowing what was coming.

The half-Gem started to strum his ukulele as the Gems gathered around Lion, who was happily eating a piece of string.

_"Going to the Grand Line! Going back hooray! What a great surprise this is on my fourteenth birthday!"_ Steven sang to his family and Peridot. The green Gem groaned slightly but found herself tapping her finger in rhythm_. "I'm gonna have a great time, I'm gonna have a blast. I can't wait to see my friends again! I hope that this will last!"_

Stars filled Steven's eyes as he pet Lion, who gave a short growl of satisfaction_. "All my friends will be there, that I can't wait to see. Robin, Usopp, Sanji, Zoro and don't forget Nami! Then of course there's Chopper, and Genevieve as well. Seeing them and Luffy too will certainly be swell!"_

The boy climbed on Lion's back, prepared to finish his jaunty tune with one more reprise of the chorus before they left._ "I'll see them on the Grand Line! Oh boy, hip hip, hooray! What a great surprise this is on my fourteenth birthday!_"

One by one the other Gems joined Steven on Lion, preparing to take a short pause from their work to both save their friends and to make sure Steven enjoyed his special day. Regardless, Pearl and Garnet looked back at the barn warily.

"First stop: the house! After that: the Grand Line! Is everybody ready?" Steven asked.

"You know it birthday dude!" Amethyst answered for everyone.

"Wait...I have to ask one thing..." Peridot meekly raised her hand, subtly keeping it away from Garnet.

"Fire away!"

"...what's a 'Grand Line?'"

*GWMAPT*

The next thing Steven knew, he was in his living room and surrounded by people he loved. It was one thing to KNOW that they were there, but seeing Connie in person brought joy to Steven's heart. As he went to go hug her, he was intercepted by a sobbing Luffy.

"Steven! I missed you so much!" Luffy cried and hugged him tight. "It hasn't been the same without you!"

"I missed you too!" Steven returned the hug. "I..."

"GAH! It's you!" Peridot screamed, pointing a finger at Luffy. "The one who can extend his limbs!"

Luffy stopped hugging Steven and cocked his head in confusion. "Uh...do I know you?"

"Luffy, that's Peridot..." Steven whispered to him.

In his head, Luffy recalled what Peridot looked like and compared it to the smaller Gem in front of him. "Uh...are you sure?"

"You are not seriously telling me we are spending an extended amount of time with these clods, are we?!" Peridot looked utterly offended at the situation.

"'Clods?'" Luffy thought about it for a moment before dropping his jaw dramatically. "IT IS PERIDOT! WHY IS THERE A NEW PERIDOT?!"

"It's a long story Pirate Captain Luffy," Garnet patted his back and gave him a high five.

"You can tell it to us when we get back to the Davy Back Fight!" Usopp stressed, shifting his gaze to the clock despite clearly wanting to hear more about the pipsqueak Peridot. "We don't have that much time left before the hour is up!"

"But..." Steven went to protest but Garnet shook her head. "...fine."

The young boy walked over to Connie's mother and jumped up for a surprise hug. "Thank you for letting Connie come! I really, REALLY appreciate it!"

"Anything for the birthday boy. All I ask is that you keep each other safe...and feel free to use any of the medical equipment in Connie's 'magical bag,'" Priyanka acknowledged her daughter, who was now carrying the bag that was given to her right before she visited the Grand Line the first time. The bag could hold far more than it looked and no doubt included Steven's mother's sword amongst the sea of bandages and Neosporin.

"Connie..." Steven whispered and blushed.

"Happy...happy birthday Steven," Connie blushed as well, clutching the wrapped gift she held tightly.

"You look so...pretty!" Steven smiled.

"Stop it! You're making me blush!"

"Ahem!" Usopp called for attention. "I know it's not fair but we need to go...now! If we are late, we forfeit and all of this would have been for nothing!"

"Then what are we waiting for? Let's go to the Grand Line!" Steven ran to the Warp Pad, followed closely by Connie and Luffy.

"Wait! I'm too old for this!" Greg panted.

"...I'll leave the card here since the money is worthless there," Damian frowned. "Damn it! Petrea was right...I should have bought him a real gift...damn it! Don't leave without me!"

One by one everyone but Priyanka made their way to the Warp Pad as well, with Petrea bringing up the rear as she rushed to grab the cake. However, the Gems decided to hold back for but a moment to make certain of one thing...

_"Going to the Grand Line can only mean one thing. Dark forces are at work it seems to stop our Pirate King,_" Pearl sang softly.

Amethyst nodded and grimaced._ "We cannot take this lightly, we must defeat our foes. If they try to attack Steven, then we will come to blows!"_

_"We'll watch them on the Grand Line, and though for now we sing; we will keep our eyes open for what the future brings," _Garnet concluded the brief reprise.

"Guys, come on or we are going to leave without you!" Steven called to them after hugging his father and Damian. He had tried to do the same really fast to Petrea, but she was determined to keep the cake in one piece when they made it back to their world.

"We are all set here birthday pirate," Garnet gave a brief smile.

"Take care of yourself!" Priyanka called to them. "Stay safe! I'll be thinking of you every minute at the hospital! Remember: I love you Connie!"

"I love you too mom! I'll be back before you know it!" Connie waved. "Just you wait and see!"

"Lion! You are the man of the house while I'm gone! Don't miss me too much!" Steven yelled to his lion right as Pearl activated the Warp Pad.

"I think I connected with the Steven Badge on your ship. We are good to go," she said determined.

"YEAH! MERRY, HERE WE COME!" Luffy yelled happily.

"I've made a horrible mistake. I'm going to die," Peridot started to cry to herself as she prepared for the worst.

With that, the Warp Pad glowed bright, leaving Priyanka and Lion alone in the beach house. The doctor looked to the pink lion, who yawned and plopped himself down on the floor. She knelt down and hesitated for a moment before beginning to pet him. As she did so, she looked to the Warp Pad and bit her lower lip. 'Come home safe...why do I feel that it is too much for a mother to ask these days?'

3. The Straw Hat Reserve Team

The storage deck filled with light as everybody returned to the Going Merry. Steven, the Gems, and Connie all managed to land on their feet while everyone else sprawled around on the floor. Peridot clutched her gemstone and began to have a mini-panic attack.

"THAT WAS NOT A NORMAL WARP!" Peridot freaked out. "We clearly transcended the fabric of time and space itself! How is that possible?!"

"Magic," Garnet dryly commented.

"DON'T JOKE WITH ME PERMAFUSION!"

As Peridot ranted for several minutes, Steven looked around the familiar setting with awe. He could hardly believe that he was back on such a perfect ship as this. "We're back!" Steven giggled to himself.

_"A Dinosaur's Story_," Greg chuckled as he picked himself up. "Ugh, my back. Man was not meant to travel this way. Did everybody make it?"

"SEND ME BACK TO THE BARN! THIS IS TERRIBLE!" Peridot continued to wail. "NOBODY MENTIONED DIMENSIONAL TRAVEL WHEN I ASKED ABOUT A 'GRAND LINE!'"

"Isn't it great?! Can we do it again?!" Luffy asked excitedly.

"...I'll take that as a yes..."

"You can stop cradling that cake like it were a grenade," Damian told his friend as he adjusted his shirt and bow tie. "I think you are fine."

"Says you! If even a single bit of white chocolate icing is out of place I will cry my eyes out!" Petrea said frantically as she examined the contents of the box, doing her best to hide it from everyone else. "Hmm...everything looks okay...THANK GOD!" She got up and ran out of the room. "I'm putting this in the refrigerator so we can have it after we win the Davy Back Fight...DON'T YOU TOUCH IT STRAW HAT!"

The room was silent as the chocolatier left, leaving everyone either confused or afraid. "...she takes her job waaaaaaay too seriously," Amethyst pointed out.

"Agreed," Usopp nodded.

"I dunno...you have to respect her dedication," Garnet shrugged. "So let's get this party started. Where is this 'Davy Back Fight' taking place captain?"

"Outside here! Come on! The others are no doubt waiting to see you!" Luffy cried as he bolted toward the door...which he hit and fell backwards back to the floor.

"...you're an idiot," Usopp slapped his face and groaned. He helped Luffy up and found himself being dragged away by his captain at

incredible speed.

"It's like we never left! Aren't you guys super excited to be back?" Steven laughed as he ran to join them.

"...yes...excited..." Pearl muttered, remembering that she was doing this for Steven and Steven alone.

"Well if we are doing this, we should probably make an entrance to remember..." Amethyst thought to herself aloud.

"Steven would like that," Garnet nodded approvingly. "Do we have any ideas?

"Stay on this vessel and pretend that we aren't here?" Peridot offered hopefully.

"I think I can help you in that department," Greg smiled. "It's Mr. Universe's time to shine!"

*GWMAPT*

"Ah! Straw Hat Luffy!" Foxy called out to the returning pirate and his sniper. "What HAVE you been doing for the past fifty minutes? If you think reaching your companion by Den Den Mushi will work, think again! There is no conceivable way that your full crew would assemble at this point in the allotted time! Accept defeat and move on!"

"The joke is on you split head!" Luffy laughed. "I will never accept defeat no matter what!"

"Then present this 'Tiger Millionaire' and be done with it!" Foxy taunted. "Put your money where your mouth is. You didn't leave your ship and not a single boat has arrived. I..."

Before Foxy could continue his monologue, the entirety of the island was filled with swelling music. It was an upbeat tune, but one with a presence nobody was prepared for. Foxy and Porche looked around for the source of it and came up empty handed. "Where the hell is that music coming from?! The Fox Trot Band knows better than to play without running it by me!"

"I don't know captain...but it's catchy!"

"IN AN UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS, MUSIC HAS STARTED PLAYING FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE!" Foxy's announcer explained. "TRULY THIS IS TURNING INTO A DAVY BACK FIGHT FOR THE AGES!"

"...music?" Luffy asked, looking back to the ship. "Oh! Music!"

"I guess Greg is getting a grip on his powersâ€¦" Usopp nodded.

Out on the field where the Davy Back Fight arena was set up, the Straw Hats were just as confused as the Foxy Pirates. They couldn't see anyone playing music nor could they see anyone else arriving to the island. Zoro, grabbing another bottle of rum, gave a smirk as he listened to the melody blare around him. "Seems like Steven didn't come alone."

"What?" Nami whirled around at him. "You don't mean..."

"This day just got interesting," Robin said to herself.

"**Ladies, gentlemen, and talking doctor reindeer**," a familiar voice boomed from the air. "**Are you ready to rock?**"

"The hell is this?!" Foxy yelled. "Who said that?!"

"**I said 'are you ready to rock?!**'" the male voice asked again, this time amassing a small chant from the curious and eager pirates. "**Much better! Straight from the heart of Beach City, I, Mr. Universe, present to you the Straw Hat Reserve Team!**"

Jumping from the side of the ship, a blonde female in an orange dress floated down to the ground while grasping an umbrella. "**Starting up is the sweet, yet deadly ally to the Straw Hats! She can shift her weight and can crush any opponent in her way...but only if you insult her chocolate. Say hello to PETREA!**"

The blonde landed and did a curtsy after blowing a kiss to the crowd. Foxy stared in shock as he tried to figure out exactly where this random woman came from.

"**Up next is the fireman who can blow you away when he blows his nose! Lover of puns and destroyer of worlds, it is time to meet DAMIAN!**"

A man posed with his arms crossed over his chest in an exaggerated way. He adjusted his sunglasses and followed his former partner's lead. Unfortunately for him, he missed the landing and fell face first into the dirt. As the Foxy Pirates began to laugh at him, Damian wiped the dirt off of his prized shirt and adjusted his bow tie. "...damn it!"

"**Joining me up here is a non-combatant and co-spectator with yours truly. Don't take her age as a sign that she is weak though. She can cut you down to size in an instant. Here is the one, the only CONNIE MAHESWARAN!**"

A young girl in a dress waved on the side of the ship and started to climb down the side of the Going Merry, clearly not trying to attempt the stunts that Damian and Petrea pulled. There was much confusion as Foxy tried to piece together just what the mystery voice said. "Non-combatant? Spectator? What is this?! What is going on?!"

"Just wait split head. The best is saved for last," Luffy smiled knowingly.

"**And finally, it is time for the main event. This is what you all have been waiting for; the reason why we are here today. But even I know I can't do them justice. Friends...meet the last members of Team Luffy!**" Mr. Universe's voice blared triumphantly.

The music stopped and the crowd waited for what was promised to be a big moment. The Foxy Pirates were engaged and the Straw Hats looked on in amazement. They were clearly not expecting anyone but Steven to show up and were overjoyed to say the least. They knew what was about to happen and waited to hear the promised anthem once more after so long of being deprived of it.

"_We_," a female voice sang out as an instrumental piece started to accompany her. The pirates below could make out a tall woman with a majestic afro and sunglasses.

"_Are the Crystal_," two additional female voices joined in. One was short and appeared to be purple while the other was taller and decidedly more feminine.

"_Gems_!" a boy sang with them. He was wearing a salmon colored shirt with a giant yellow star on it.

"_We always save the day_!" the ladies sang in unison.

"_And if you think we can't_," the boy sang solo.

"_We'll always find a way_!"

"_That's why the people_..." the tall one started alone before being joined by the other two ladies. "..._of this world_..."

"..._believe in_..." a new voice joined in, seemingly coming from a small girl trying to stay out of sight in the corner but being brought into focus by the tall one.

"_Garnet_!" she yelled as she jumped down with the small, seemingly green, girl clutched in her hands. She looked petrified and was screaming as she prepared to hit the ground.

"_Amethyst_!" the purple one joined them below.

"_And Pearl_!" the final female landed gracefully, holding onto the boy in her arms. She let him down and he struck a pose dramatically.

"_And STEVEN_!"

"â€¦and Peridotâ€¦" the green one whispered and promptly hid behind Garnet as she saw a crowd of people she recognized running toward her. "Gah! Hide me!"

"STEVEN!" Nami, Sani, Genevieve, and Chopper cried out happily. Zoro merely grinned and Robin gave a smile as the crew made their way to where Luffy and Usopp were showing off the new arrivals.

"Guys!" Steven ran over an embraced his crew as tightly as he could.

"Look at you! You lookâ€¦exactly the same!" Genevieve smirked. "Who could have guessed?"

"You noticed!" Steven laughed. "Man, I missed you guys!"

"We missed you too shitty kid!" Sanji said, ruffling his hair. "It's been too quiet without youâ€¦and heloooooo nurse!" The blond haired cook moved away from the young boy and grabbed the hand of Petrea, preparing to kiss it. "Oh Petrea-chan, my life is complete! How I longed to see you once more!"

"Sanjiâ€¦how charming," Petrea gave a somewhat fake smile as she tried to pull her hand away from him. "Canâ€¦can I have my hand

back?"

"And deprive me of your company already? You wound me!"

"Not yetâ€¦" Petrea muttered to herself. "The day is still youngâ€¦"

"HOLD IT!" Foxy yelled, trying to break up the reunion. "What the hell was that? Where the hell did you just come from?! Were you hiding on the ship the whole time? I want answersâ€¦nay, I DEMAND answers!"

Steven regarded the pirate and looked up and down at him. Foxy twitched his eyebrow and started to growl. "What?! Do you have something to say punk?!"

"You have the coolest hair I have ever seen!" Steven whispered in awe. The Straw hats started to laugh to themselves as Foxy took in the surprising compliment.

"Finally! A Straw Hat I can get behind! I like this kid!" Foxy laughed and put his hand on his shoulder. "'Tiger Millionaire' Steven Universe, welcome to the Davy Back Fight! Now that you are here we can begin a PROPERâ€¦"

"Excuse me!" Steven raised his hand. "Umâ€¦not to be a bother or anything but I don't really know what a 'Davy Back Fight' is."

"â€¦you don't?"

"I do not!"

"Haven't you been listening to everything from the ship?" Foxy asked. "Weren't you just hiding like a coward in there?"

Steven cocked his head in confusion. "â€¦uhâ€¦no?"

"A likely story! Regardless, I'll tell you what a Davy Back Fight is only because you complimented my hair," Foxy grinned. "The Davy Back Fight is a three round game where two pirate crews bet their flags and their crew against each otherâ€¦and I have NEVER been defeated before. Behold the glory of my crew!"

Foxy made a grand gesture to the scores of pirates wearing black head gear, causing Steven to drop his jaw is amazement. "Wow! That's incredible! Iâ€¦CHOPPER!"

The small reindeer had managed to get away from Porche and ran toward Steven. He jumped into his arms and gave him a large hug as he cried. "OH STEVEN! I'M SO SORRY! IT'S MY FAULT YOU ARE HERE! I SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN YOU INVOLVED IN THIS!"

"Don't cry Chopper! This is a good thing! I'm happy to help win you back! We've got this!" Steven smiled, causing Chopper to cry even harder.

"Did you not just hear me kid?! I AM UNDEFEATED! Your crew has already lost their reindeer to me and it is only just the beginning! Fuefehfeh!"

"Now hold on Misterâ€¦Foxy, was it?" Pearl made her way to the Straw Hats and Foxy Pirates. Following her were the remaining Gems, Greg, Connie, and an irritated Damian, who had already gotten into an argument with Sanji. "There are still so many unanswered questions we have about this game and this entire situation as a whole! I assume there is a rulebook I can read andâ€¦"

"Hold it! Hold it! HOLD IT! I'm still trying to wrap my brain around who all of you even are and why you are here!" Foxy cut her off. "The kid I understand, but there isn't a wanted poster of any of you and the only other names that were even mentioned were a 'Petrea' and a 'Damian,' neither of which were even considered to be true members of the Straw Hat crew!"

"Hey!" Damian growled. "What is that supposed to mean?!"

"â€¦it means just that. You AREN'T a part of the crew officially. You made that clear. Repeatedly," Genevieve rolled her eyes. "I'm the only one who officially joined up."

"â€¦fair enough," Damian conceded, turning bright red. "But we are here now to save your asses at the eleventh hour! You can thank me later!"

"Nobody cares, you poorly dressed idiot!" Foxy snapped. "Chopper, explain who these ladies are and everything else that doesn't make sense to me!"

"Uhâ€¦didn't you hear the song?" Chopper sniffled. "It kind of explained everything rather nicelyâ€¦"

"YES, I HEARD THE SONG! I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SONG! PLEASE ENLIGHTEN YOUR CAPTAIN JUST WHAT THE SONG WAS ABOUT!" Foxy screamed as every vein in his head pulsed.

The Gems witnessed the pirate have a mini-meltdown and exchanged looks with each other. "Does everyone in this world have to be so loud?" Pearl asked.

"Does everyone in this world have to look so weird? I mean look at that guy!" Amethyst pointed and laughed.

"He does look ratherâ€¦offensiveâ€¦" Pearl agreed, her eyes landing on the gun sticking out of his pants. "â€¦and seems to know nothing of proper weapons safety."

"It doesn't matter how he looks. We are here for Steven!" Garnet reminded them.

Foxy, growing impatient, shot an angry look at Chopper who took a big breath as he prepared to explain just who everyone was. "That's Garnet, Amethyst, and Pearl. They are the Crystal Gems..."

"Hold onâ€¦that nameâ€¦where have I heard that name before?" Foxy tapped his finger to the side of his face.

"The song?" Luffy asked.

"ENOUGH WITH THE DAMN SONG!" Foxy roared. Suddenly he snapped his

fingers. "Aha! You mentioned that name before, dear Chopper, when we were discussing the last missing 'member' of the Straw Hat crew: Sardonyx!"

"Sardonyx?!" the Gems said at once in shock and confusion.

"Aha; you wenches are found out! My lovely pet here told me that you WERE somehow that personâ€¦yet I don't see the resemblance at all," Foxy chuckled to himself before he found himself being lifted in the air by Garnet.

"Do. Not. Call. Us. Wenches. EVER!" she threatened. The pirate looked like he was going to cry as he nodded profusely. "Good little man."

"Now why would thisâ€¦odd looking manâ€¦know about Sardonyx?" Pearl asked.

"Did you guys forget already?" Nami pointed out. "Sardonyx is wanted for her part in the capture of Crocodile!"

The small amount of color in Pearl's face drained for a moment before she turned bright blue. "You mean to tell me that we are STILL considered fugitives?! This is so embarrassingâ€¦and infuriating!"

"Eh, I don't mind. It's flattering," Garnet shrugged.

"Flattering or not, where is Sardonyx?! I demand to meet Sardonyx before we can truly begin the Davy Back Fight once more! Then, and only then, will I determine if she is a Straw Hat! You might deny her Straw Hat Luffy, but she would not have gotten a bounty if she was not affiliated with your crew! There is something strange going on around hereâ€¦and Foxy will get to the bottom of it!"

Greg, looking around at the carnival style setting of the arena, couldn't help but let out a low whistle. "â€¦strange does not even begin to describe this, manâ€¦"

"I beg to differ. This is amazing!" Connie took in the sight. "This is a perfect place for Steven's party!"

"Trueâ€¦I can't really argue with that," Greg shrugged before widening his eyes. "Is that a mutton station?! I haven't had mutton in years! Iâ€¦don't have any money whatsoever hereâ€¦"

"I think we can spot you Greg," Zoro walked up and shook his hand. "Then again, Nami is rather miserlyâ€¦"

"Zoro!" Connie twirled around and gave the pirate a hug, which fought at first but relented.

"If it isn't my favorite opponent," Zoro smirked. "How are you doing squirt?"

"I'm beyond thrilled! This is going to be the best weekend ever!"

"Mr. Foxy, Sardonyx isâ€¦well, it is hard to explain in terms you would understand," Pearl frowned and tried to think of an easier

explanation than the one that she was prepared to say. "It is the combined form of the two of us."

"â€¦you're bluffing!" Foxy began to laugh. "Fuefeheh! That is rich!"

The second Foxy began to laugh, his entire crew joined in with him, mocking the Crystal Gems. "It seems that our mystery ladies have claimed that they can combine together to form the wanted criminal known as Sardonyx! Have you ever heard such a fairy tale?" Foxy's announcer joined in.

"Fairy tale?!" Pearl began to get even more flustered. "First off, it is only Garnet and myself who form Sardonyx! Alexandrite is what happens when all of us fuse! Second, if you think that fusion is a mere fairy tale, then you are mistaken! You know NOTHING of Gems youâ€¦"

"Pearl, calm down. If they want to see Sardonyx so we can start this game, I don't see a problem with it," Garnet cracked her neck.

"â€¦really?!" Pearl grinned giddily.

"Oh no," Amethyst groaned. "This is gonna make me sick."

Garnet motioned for everyone to back up and then turned around sharply. She pointed to the green Gem, who had been slowly inching her way back toward the ship the entire time. "Don't even try it Peridot!"

"Peridot?!" Nami asked, picking up the familiar name. "Peridot is here?!"

At once the Straw Hats started to look around for the rogue Gem, not recognizing her without her limb enhancers. Zoro gripped his swords and everyone began to get tense until Luffy snapped his fingers. "Oh yeah! I forgot she was here!"

"YOU KNEW?!" Nami yelled.

"Yeah! She's right over there," Luffy pointed to Peridot, who tried to hide behind one of Foxy's men. The Staw Hats could not believe their eyes and just stared for a few moments without saying a word. "She's tinier nowâ€¦cool, huh?"

"NO! IT IS NOT COOL!"

"Why the hell is that shitty Gem here and not in that bubble we left her in?" Sanji asked. "I thought she was trying to kill you guys or something! You can't come back from that!"

Genevieve let out a small cough and Sanji found himself getting glares from her, Petrea, Damian, and even Robin (though not as exaggeratedly). "â€¦okay, point takenâ€¦ Still, she didn't seem that remorseful a month ago!"

"It's okay! She's good nowâ€¦kind ofâ€¦maybeâ€¦" Steven shrugged. "But she's working with us to save the Earth from The Cluster, so she came along with us!"

"I had no choice in the matter, you pirate clodsâ€¦" Peridot hissed. "Just get this farce over with so I may return to my work!"

"Isn't she great?" Steven smiled.

"â€¦we have two very different definitions of 'great' Steven," Genevieve shook her head.

"What the hell is this?! There's another one now?! Where do you people keep coming from?! Who the hell is Peridot?!" Foxy looked to Porche. "Did you hear anything about a Peridot?!"

"I think at the end of the song boss," Porche admitted.

"AGAIN WITH THE DAMN SONG!" Foxy grabbed at his hair and grunted in frustration.

"â€¦are we doing this or not?" Garnet asked, tapping her foot impatiently. "We can talk about Peridot later. All of this is just wasting timeâ€¦"

"Oh! I've got an idea!" Greg chimed in. "I've been working on this killer new song as an instrumental for my next album. Why don't I play it for you while you two fuse? It'd be my honor."

"Whatever," Garnet and Pearl took their places as the pirates from both crews circled around them to give them space. "Ready when you are Greg."

"Awesome! I call this little ditty 'Enticement,'" Greg motioned playing a piano and the sounds of fingers on ivory keys filled the air. As the piano began, Pearl started to twirl around gracefully like a ballerina on a stage. Soon it was joined by Greg replicating a drum machine, which Garnet began to gyrate her hips to. The two danced toward each other as the scene was witnessed by pirates all around them.

"This is hot!" one of Foxy's men cried out.

"Look at that one move!" another pirate shouted.

"â€¦I have no idea what I'm looking atâ€¦but I think I like it!" Foxy conceded, causing Porche to fold her arms and puff out her cheeks.

The Straw Hats were also enticed by the movements, though for different reasons. Robin and Connie were intrigued at the process of fusion, never actually seeing it themselves (discounting Connie's own fusion dance with Steven). Nami, Genevieve, and Petrea all just looked confused at the sight while the men, save Luffy, enjoyed the sight. Luffy and Steven, on the other hand, were merely excited to see a giant woman. As for Amethyst and Peridot; they were annoyed and disgusted by it respectively.

The music ended after Garnet threw Pearl up in the air. The men let out a collective gasp as the tall Gem caught her, causing the two of them to merge in a ball of light. As the light disappeared, a tall figure stood in their place. She had four arms, vermillion skin, and triangle shaped apricot hair. Her outfit resembled that of a stage

magician's and she put her hands on her hips in an exaggerated manner.

"Hello Grand Line! This is the ravishing Sardonyx coming to you all the way from Beach City and I am just thrilled to be here on this very special day! I'm so thrilled that I need to take a giant bow! Oh ho ho ho!" Sardonyx laughed to herself as she did just that.

"Bravo! Bravo!" Steven and Luffy clapped together in unison.

"In a stunning turn of events, it seems that the two Crystal Gems known as Garnet and Pearl CAN combine into a giant woman known as Sardonyx!" Foxy's announcer explained enthusiastically. "In all my years doing this, I have never once seen anything so beautiful and terrifying at the same time!"

"Stop it you! You are making me blush!"

The announcer made his way to Foxy, who was staring at the giant woman in complete and utter fear. He was not moving outside of his shaking boots. "Sir, now that you have seen the lovely Sardonyx, what are your thought about her participation in the Davy Back Fight?"

Foxy did not speak for several minutes before making a giant gulp. "Iâ€¦I think that she's not a Straw Hat after allâ€¦"

End
file.